

he was only about 15 yards away. Despite having dropped 25 feet the dueklings raeed off with their mother towards a drain some 300 yards away. Mr. Paterson has been keenly interested in birds for over 50 years and was born and bred in the distriet and yet he never saw a duek bring down its young until this reecent oceasion.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

*Ovalides reticularis*, a fish new to Western Australia.—Mr. A. J. Fraser (Chief Inspeetor of Fisheries) has presented to the Museum a small blowfish eaught at the foot of East Street, Fremantle, in the Swan River estuary on May 23, 1949. On examination this proves to be a young Striped Blowfish, *Ovalides reticularis* (Bloeh and Schneider), a species known to oecur in the seas of India, the East Indies, New Guinea and Queensland but not previously reecorded from our waters. The fish measures 118 mm. (about 4½in.) in total length, and is lenticular in shape, its body tapering equally to both head and tail, in this way differing from our eommon blowfishes. Its eolour above is dark blue-grey with numerous small whitish spots; on the sides of the faee, around the peetoral fins and on the under surfaee white predominates over numerous dark blue-grey stripes which eneirele the peetorals and are more or less longitudinal on the faee and the under surfaee of the body. The fins are greyish with dark edges but the fleshy base of the dorsal is snow-white.

—L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum.

**Larder Habits of the Grey Butcher-bird.**—We have had two Grey Butcher-birds (*Cracticus torquatus*) eoming to our plaee for the past four years. Today (June 27, 1949) they made their first appearenee since February. They usually return in June after leaving with their young in February. We have a peach tree growing close to our baek verandah. With the heavy erop of fruit several limbs have broken off, leaving splintered points. I feed the birds on pieees of meat and they have learnt what will happen when they see me walking to the meat safe with the knife. They know I will plaee about 12 pieees on the verandah table. After I step baek one bird eomes down and after eating two pieees he starts to plaee pieee after pieee in the splintered points of the broken peach limbs until the whole lot is gone. In the meantime the other bird is helping itself. The birds pull the pieees of meat down between the splinters tight with their beaks so that they will not drop off with the wind. While I am writing this one bird flew off with a big pieee after having plaeced a few in the tree.

—W. L. GRANT, Collie.

**Red-capped Robin Influx.**—Following on the note in the last number (p. 21) of the observation of a male Red-capped Robin (*Petroeca goodenovii*) between Lake Mealup and the south shore of Peel Inlet on May 14, the following reports have been reeived of

the occurrence of the species in the Perth and neighbouring districts during the autumn of this year (1949): Yanehep, Miss S. Elliott saw a male on May 10; Mr. A. Gardiner saw a male on June 5. Lesmurdie, Miss M. V. B. Green saw a male on May 10; it was still present a few days later. Bickley, Mr. W. H. Loaring saw a female on April 28 and 29. North Dandalup, Mr. T. M. Smith saw a pair, male and female, on June 16, 1½ miles west of the railway line. West Coolup, Mr. Smith saw a male bird on his farm on May 26, June 2 and June 3. Coolup, Mr. A. H. Robinson saw a female on June 11.

Messrs. Smith and Robinson had never previously observed the species in their districts. Mr. Robinson writes: "I saw the bird (a female) being chased by a female Scarlet Robin (*Petroeca multicolor*). Later again in the same locality I saw a similar occurrence with probably the same birds. The male Scarlet Robin showed no aggressive behaviour; he left the driving out of the stranger entirely to his mate."

—EDITOR.

**Occurrence of King River Perchlet in the Margaret River.**—During April 1948 I visited the Margaret River, near Rosa Brook, in order to obtain specimens of the Pigmy Perch (*Nannoperca vittata*) for my small aquarium. Here there are very deep, long pools of fresh water with shallower sections in between. It was in these shallow, weedy pools that I searched. I used a small net made of fly wire and was successful in obtaining the specimens I needed. I noticed that one of the fish was different from the others, having a more slender body and eyes larger in proportion.

The fish were placed in the aquarium and I consulted the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, no. 3, to identify the strange fish. I considered it to be *Nannatherina balstoni*, the King River Perchlet, and this was later confirmed by Mr. Bruce Shipway. This fish kept apart from the specimens of Pigmy Perch, usually swimming within a few inches of the surface and seldom went to the bottom of the aquarium. I was using chopped-up earthworms to feed the fish, but the *Nannatherina* did not eat for several days; then it would dash in for its share among the others.

This fish had been in the aquarium about three weeks when one night I inadvertently left the cover off. In the morning I found it had jumped out on to the table and was dead. I placed it in preservative and later gave the specimen to Mr. Bruce Shipway. Several attempts to obtain further specimens in the Margaret River have failed.

—H. O. WEBSTER, Waterloo.

**Wire Nests of Magpies.**—The Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*) is reported, from time to time, building nests entirely from pieces of wire. In the *Gould League Notes*, 1949-50, p. 25 Mr. C. S. Hamilton, of the Government School, Kellerberrin, describes such a nest from Lake Grace. It weighed 5 lb. and was made up of 238 separate pieces of wire ranging from 4½ inches to 4 feet 2 inches in length, and totalling 243 feet in length. A much larger nest from Caron was sent for exhibition at the Wild Life Show by